करने के लिए उच्चतम न्यायालय के निदेशों को ध्यान में रखते हुए रेडक्रास समेत विभिन्न संगठनों की सहायता से देश भर में स्वैच्छिक रक्त-दान को बढ़ावा देने पर जोर दिया गया है ।

(ख) व्यावसायिक रक्तदाता सामान्यतः समाज के गरीब वर्गों के होते हैं ।

(ग) और (घ) जन-प्रचार के साधनों, सरकारी संस्थाओं और गैर-सरकारी संगठनों के माध्यम से स्वैच्छिक रक्त दान के बारे में एक जन-शिक्षण शुरू किया गया है । स्वैच्छिक रक्त दान दिवस हर वर्ष पहली अक्तूबर को मनाया जाता है इसके कार्यान्वयन की निगरानी के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर और राज्य-संघ राज्य क्षेत्र स्तर पर रक्तदान परिषदों का गठन किया गया है ।

**Medical facilities for Central Government pensioners recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission**

2559. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of medical facilities available to pensioners of Central Government and its instrumentalities after acceptance of recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): The Fifth Central Pay Commission, in its Report has inter alia, recommended extension of CS(MA) Rules, 1944, to pensioners not covered under CGHS, in a restricted manner, "so as to facilitate reimbursement of expenditure on hospitalisation in a Government hospital/private hospital recognised under CGHS or under CS(MA) Rules for the purpose." The Report has also recommended that "pensioners residing in an area not covered by CGHS should be given a fixed amount of medical allowance @ Rs. 100.00 per month for meeting the expenditure on day-to-day medical expenses that do not require hospitalisation.

The recommendations are receiving the attentinon of Govt.

**Grants to villages bordering Pakistan**

2560. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that border villages in Jammu and Kashmir are being given special grants;

(b) if so, what is the criterion for disbursing those grants to different border villages in that region;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such grants are being given to villages bordering Pak and the villages along the border of Tibet/China are being ignored; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Under Border Area Development Programme a special Central Assistance is released to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir by the Planning Commission to undertake developmental activities in the blocks bordering Pakistan. In Jammu & Kashmir 41 blocks comprising around 2600 villages, forming part of 9 districts are covered under the Programme. The funds are allocated among the nine districts on the basis of development needs, infrastructural gaps, security factors, remoteness and inaccessability.

(c) and (d) Owing to the limited availability of funds, the Planning

Commission have decided not to extend the Border Area Development Programme to Tibet/China border.

**Offer of unconditional talks with the ultras in different states**

2561. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ultras of J&K have responded to P.M.'s recent offer of talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether offer of "unconditional talks" is also being extended to the ultras of other States of the Union;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any negotiations have been held; and

(f) if so, the details results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) During his visit to J&K on 26-27 July, 1997, the Prime Minister had made an appeal to the misguided youth of the State who have joined the militant rnaks to give up their guns and said that the Government was prepared to have unconditional talks with them, to enable them to rejoin the mainsstream. So far there have been no response from the said misguided youth.

(c) and (d) During his visit to the North Eastern States in May, 1997, the Prime Minister had reiterated Government's willingness to hold unconditional talks with underground elements.

(e) and (f) The Issac-Mouivah group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland has responded to the offer and after preliminary talks with them, it has been agreed to cease fire for 3 months w.e.f. 1st August 1997 and embark upon political level discussions. Government are also in touch with other insurgent Naga groups which have also committed to suspend their activities.

**Amarnath Yatra under BSF Escort**

2562. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of one pilgrim and injury to eighteen Amarnath pilgrims in an explosion in a hotel at Banihal on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway has been reported in the recent past despite taking very fool-poof security steps;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any ex-gratia payment has since been paid to the families of those killed and injured;

(d) whether Government propose to organise such pilgrim visits in future under the escort of Border Security Force; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONI-

(a) to (c) No Sir, it is not a fact that pilgrims of Amarnath Yatra were injured due to the explosion. On 23.7.97, an IED blast took place in Hotel Kailash, Banihal in which 15 persons sustaned injuries including the owner of the hotel, who later succumbed to his injuries. Out of the injured, two were police person-